

While these duties appear few and simple, yet if faithfully discharged, this office becomes one of the most important in the S. S. C. E.

Roann, Ind.

Waterloo, Iowa

This has been the day for our S. S. C. E. meeting in the country and after a nine mile drive with the thermometer about zero it seems good to get near the fire.

We met to-day with Mrs. Josiah Lichty and did some quilting. She furnished us a splendid dinner, the attendance was good, so we had a very pleasant meeting.

We used to find it hard to get many of our members to attend our devotional meetings so the last few months we have tried a new plan. The sister at whose house we meet furnishes lunch for which we each pay ten cents which of course goes into our S. S. C. E. treasury. We have our devotional meeting and then have a little social time together. Now that the days are so short we meet in the morning and have dinner.

We have been doing some quilting, made mixed pickles and sold them, sold carpet rags, etc., and so little by little we gather together a little sum every year. The Waterloo sisters have not been idle lately. Last Friday they served waffles, chicken and other good things at the home of Mrs. S. Bickley and cleared over thirty five dollars.

The day Roosevelt was here they served meals and took in over a hundred dollars, all of which will be used in furnishing the new church which we expect to have dedicated next month.

I wish we could hear from more of the societies thru these columns. I think it is helpful to us to know what others are doing.

MRS. ETTA GILLIN.

Our Young People

SPENDING TIME AND TAKING PAINS FOR CHRIST

Topic for Dec 2 Matt. 25:1-13

We have to study here some lessons from a Jewish Wedding. Ten Virgins go forth with their lamps lighted to meet the Bridegroom. They represent professing Christians in whom the light of the gospel of Jesus has been really, or at the least in appearance, lighted. All slumber and sleep while the Bridegroom tarries. The only distinction between them is that five have provided sufficient oil with which to replenish their lamps and five have not.

Oil was used among the Jews both to burn in the temple and to anoint both kings and priests. It was thus a symbol of Divine grace. Psalm 45:7; Acts 10:38; Heb 1:9. By anointing with oil the king became the Lord's anointed. So it is by grace which the oil symbolized that we are made kings and priests unto God.

Another lesson to be learned from this parable is that it is not enough to experience religion once for all. The Christian's experience should be a growing experience. Christianity is a life (John 10:10) and life always means a continuous going forward. Growth arrested always means death begun. Manna was provided daily for the Jews. We pray. Give us this day our daily bread. Our prayer ought also to be for daily grace. And those who do not so pray—who do not recognize their daily dependence upon God for a continued supply of grace will at last, find

with the five foolish Virgins, the door of the kingdom closed against them.

As paradoxical as it may appear to be Christianity is not a thing that one keeps by keeping. In fact it cannot be kept at all. The same law obtains in both the kingdom of nature and of grace that what is unused is taken away. The fish of Mammoth cave once saw, but no longer see. So with our common ground-moles. They preferred to live in the darkness and nature took away their light which they no longer used. The one talent was taken away from the idle servant and given to the diligent servant. The only way, therefore, to keep what one already has and to put one's self in the way to obtain more is to use what one already has.

But this implies, however, that we shall use what we now have in the service of Christ and that we shall use them to our utmost. The motto of the State Sunday-school association is "Nothing but the best is good enough for Jesus." I would that that was the motto of every church society and individual Christian. Who can estimate the results that would follow. And should it not be our motto? Could he have done or could he now do for us more than he is doing? Did he not give his life and can you imagine a greater and better gift than that? Let us re-dedicate ourselves at this service. Let us try, if never before, to give him our best service at least. Let us give him our best prayer—our best testimony—our best song.

And there are opportunities to serve him. The door of opportunity swings wide before us—opportunities for service, for sacrifice—for a word or work. Do not let them pass. Seize them and fill them to your utmost. Let us all be "Minute Men." These are the ones who have done effectual and timely work for Jesus and men.

Let this service be one for the broadening and deepening of Christian life and activity. Let us be up and doing, so when the Bridegroom comes we shall be found ready and shall go in.

SCRIPTURE HELP

I Valuing Time

- (a) Purpose of, Psalm 90:12.
- (b) When, Eccl. 12:1.
- (c) The End, Psalm 39:4, and Isa. 55:6.
- (d) For Work, John 9:4, 5, and 12:35.
- (e) For Salvation, II Cor. 6:2; Eph. 5:16.

II How Jesus Used Time

- (1) By doing the Father's will, John 17:4.
- (2) As the Father, John 5:17.
- (3) So as to complete his work, John 9:4.

III Using Our Time for Him

- (1) The Commandment, Mark 12:30.
- (2) The way, Luke 22:32.
- (3) Strengthening others, Acts 18:23.
- (4) " Rev. 3:2.
- (5) Following Him, John 12:26.
- (6) Doing the things He did, John 20:20, 21.
- (7) What Jesus did, Luke 4:18, 19.

IV The Preparation

- (1) Enduement of the Spirit, Luke 24:49. see Acts 2:4.
- (2) United to Christ, John 15:1, 2.
- (3) Called and Separated, Gal. 1:15-17.
- (4) Purging one's self, II Tim. 2:20, 21.

V Consecration

- (1) Appreciating the value of, Matt. 13:44.
- (2) What it means, Rom. 12:1.
- (3) Why consecrate the body, I Cor. 6:19, 20.
- (4) By separation, II Cor. 6:17, 18.
- (5) To have the Christ-like mind, Phil. 2:5-9.

VI Diligence and Continuation

- (1) Rom. 12:11; I Tim. 4:15; II Pet. 1:5, 8.
- (2) Rom. 2:6, 7; Gal. 6:9; I Tim. 4:16

TOPICS FOR TALKS AND TESTIMONIES

- 1 What lessons can the Christian learn from the Business world as to the way in which he ought to use his time and talents?
- 2 Why should "I" spend any part of my time and talents for Christ?
- 3 How much time we find it practicable to give to

our Christian duties each day? (Open Parliament by members)

4 What is the effect in one's self of being diligent in Christian service?

5 If we fail to do our whole Christian duty is it to be attributed to a lack of opportunities?

6 What is the relation between faith and works? (Let pastor, if present, answer.)

7 What should be the characteristics of our daily service for Christ?

8 Is it wrong to be always on the lookout for new methods of work?

9 Is time lost to the man of business that is spent in doing his religious duties? (Give some testimonies.)

10 Open Parliament—What special needs of the church and society, local and general, that call for greater gifts of time and work? (Led by President)

THE MISSIONARY PRAYER CYCLE

Subject of prayer this week: "Thy kingdom come—in my own heart, in my family, church, community, state, country, in the world. May God's will be done in governments, in politics, in press and in pulpit and in every business life. May all wars close and instead may every energy be bent to the uplift of mankind."

WM. D. FURRY.

Some "Do Nots" For Societies

1 Do not come to the meeting and then make your preparation.

2 Do not say, "The meeting is yours." You are the appointed leader. Then lead the meeting and let the Spirit lead you.

3 Do not sing all your songs in the long-metre, or something longer than that. Neither sing six or eight verses in the same song.

4 Do not allow any one person to monopolize the meeting—not even the leader.

5 Do not overlook the timid ones in assigning the work of the evening.

6 Do not allow the service to become tedious, neither let pauses occur.

7 Do not get into a "rut." Variety is the spice of life. Be constantly devising new methods and ever on the outlook for them.

8 If assigned a question which is once read by the leader do not read it again. Begin your answer at once. And make no apologies. Apology is only "egotism inside out."

9 Do not become exclusive. No society can live unto itself. Keep in touch with the world-wide work of the young people and especially the work of our own church.

10 Do not forget to pray for the society. That which we pray for we become more and more interested in.

11 Do not allow the evangelistic spirit to wane and die in the society. We have been an evangelistic power in the world. Many young persons have been brought to Christ by the society. Remember our motto, "For Christ and the church"

12 Do not allow the missionary spirit to die. Keep it alive and growing by frequent contributions, special missionary programs, and the reading of missionary literature. The life and activity of the society depends upon the possession of the spirit of missions.

13 Do not come late, if at all unavoidable. Be in your place in time.

14 Do not forget to bring your Bible.

15 Do not rise to read your scripture ref-